EXTRA

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A Concerted Effort: Statement of Fact

Hamilton students have demonstrated their anguish over the Cambodian crisis in American involvement in Southeast Asia in the recently passed hours. They have proven that they are aware of the absorbing gravity of national policies and have responded, not with violence, but with a positive program of anti-war activities. During the past two days the Hamilton student has looked farther off this Hill than he ever thought possible.

The proposals and accomplishments of the seven workshops are exemplary in both scope and nature. In a brief but hectic 12 hours, these workshops produced an effort, an imagination, and a cohesiveness many would have thought impossible.

Keeping in mind the Strike Referendum Committee's desire to yield cogent results from the strike, the workshop for coordinating local activities contacted other local colleges to form a Central New York bloc. Their first coordinate action, a proposed peaceful mass demonstration at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, is scheduled for Friday afternoon.

The Local Activities Coordinating Committee, which grew out of the workshop, is also contacting the 78 Utica area churches to suggest and assist in peace rallies in Oneida County. According to Committee Co-Chairman J.K. Hage '72, the possibilities of local activity are so great that coordinating with the churches alone could require the time and efforts of 200 college people.

The committee which arose from the workshop in mass media is in almost constant communicaton with the United States Scholastic Press Association, professional presss, and the broadcast media. They are also coordinating by phone with other striking colleges as far away as California. They have, in essence, alleviated the isolation of the Hill; an isolation that has been, up to now, the root of the Hamilton students' civil ambivalence.

The Campus Complicity Workshop may well have acquired a national prominence for the College. The Committee has initiated research into college endowments, most of which is in the form of stocks, and into the stockholder's proxy as a vote in protest of American involvement in Southeast Asia. From this grew the idea of using personal stock proxies—from students, their parents, and friends—as a bloc protest. The National Student Mobilization Committee has accepted the plan wholeheartedly and is crediting Hamilton with its inceptio.

An organized and nation-wide refusal of induction by college seniors is the goal of the fourth committee. In rough draft form last night, the Committee's proposal would combine a central cache of senior's intention to refuse induction. With this program Hamilton is again the initiator of a safe and constructive form of civil disobedience.

Although at the Chapel meeting last night the Fund Raising Committee could only claim $225, by midnight that figure had grown to over $500. Students and faculty have deposited whatever loose change they have in their pockets. It should be emphasized that the Committee has collected more in 24 hours than the Campus Fund Drive could in 3 months.

The Draft Counseling Committee intends to create at Hamilton an entire school of draft counselors. Such a move would eliminate the sporadic counseling that exists now in the Mohawk Valley and would provide a valuable service for local high schools.

On the seventh group, the Committee on Academic Alterations, rests the success of the other six. Their "Modest Proposal" to the Faculty would free the Hamilton student who desires to become involved in Strike Committee affairs from the "end-of-semester academic burdens."

In addition to the work in committees, Hamilton faculty members are holding teach-ins this afternoon. The sessions will deal with dissent, the campus, the war, and conscientious objection. Students are not only acting, they are also learning—learning so that the decisions they will have to make during the next few weeks will be more meaningful.

Hamilton is faced with a difficult question: how can the constructive activities of the past two days be continued with the present academic schedule?

Kirkland has tried to maintain the best of both worlds. It voted last night to continue the academic program of the College, while encouraging faculty and student expressions against the war within these normal academic activites of the College. We ask whether these two separate endeavors can share in the scarcity of time, or should they be mutually exclusive?

The Hamilton faculty must weigh the College's priorities before its meeting this afternoon. It must evaluate the concerted effort of the student body during the past 48 hours. It must decide if it is going to trust the integrity of the students. Should this effort of conscience be continued? But more importantly, should it be continued in combination with the faculty? Or is the normal academic schedule, even in light of the Cambodian crisis, still the paramount concern of the College? If the academic activities are to resume as usual, then the constructive programs initiated by the students must suffer. And if the faculty is to trust the motives of the student body and allow it to continue these constructive activities, then the normal academic program must be forsaken.

If this were September and the beginning of the semester, a concerted effort by students might better be coordinated into the academic program. But this is not September. It is May, and the semester will end in less than two weeks. It is naive to expect students to resume their work in the classroom when academic pressures are greatest and at the same time to sustain their concerted effort. Nor can anyone expect students to ignore the crisis this country is facing and finish out the academic program. With student attention directed off the Hill, it is impossible to rechannel it back into the classroom.

Hamilton students are not requesting a four week holiday highlighted by the cancellation of the epilogue to an academic year.

The intellectual integrity of students is not demonstrated by engagement and performance in eight days of examinations. Rather it is proven in day-to-day work and performance that has transpired since September.

If it can be claimed that Hamilton students are intellectually mature then it cannot be expected that they forsake the dictates of their convictions.

And, it is this reasoned integrity that now calls for action, involvement, and unconditional committment. And it calls for it with the greatest immediacty.

We are calling upon the Hamilton faculty to put its trust in the integrity of the student body. We ask the faculty to evaluate that activities of the past two days and recognize the sincerity and concern felt by the Hamilton student. There is a time for learning and a time for action. Hamilton students realize that if there is to be learning in the future, now is the time for action.

Ronald J. Bruck,
Editor-in-Chief

Jaime E. Yordan

James H. Higby

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY MAY 6

12:00 Organizational meeting for the Kirkland College community in the living room of McEwen Hall

1:00 Organizational meeting for faculty "teach-ins"—items and locations for the following discussions with Hamilton faculty will be announced:
Warren Wright: "How We Talk to Each Other"
Melvin Endy: "Conscientious Objection and the Law"
Grant Jones: "War and the Present Society"
Norman Bowie: "Dissent"
Robert Simon: "Academic Problems on Campus Now"
Russell Blackwood: "Levels of Dissent"
Eugene Lewis: "Efficacy of Protest"
Lafayette Todd: "Rhetoric of Dissent"

4:10 Meeting of the Hamilton College faculty, Buttrick Hall—discussion of the academic situation relative to the strike

7:30 Meeting of the Hamilton College student body in the Chapel